

Revisions to OMB Circular A-16

Josh Delmonico, FGDC OS

Libby DuBan, FGDC OS

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Circular A-16 Revision Overview

Goal of the revision: To provide forward thinking guidance, incorporate and clarify GDA requirements, and to better align with the broader Federal data management enterprise

What's different: Previous versions of Circular A-16 were released before the GDA was enacted; this revision updates geospatial management guidance and integrates GDA and Federal data management requirements, and clarifies the roles of GDA covered agencies and other FGDC member agencies

Why are we doing it: Fulfills GDA requirement for OMB to develop new guidance on FGDC membership and roles of agencies

What are we trying to accomplish: Clear guidance on policy, management, and implementation responsibilities for all FGDC members.

A-16 Revision Highlights

1. Meets GDA requirement for OMB to “update guidance with respect to membership of the Committee and the roles of members of the Committee” within one year of publication of GDA
2. Updates Circular A-16 to align with GDA requirements and other Federal management enterprise requirements, including coordination with other Federal data management bodies.
3. Clarifies FGDC membership beyond the GDA covered agencies.
4. Clarifies certain exclusions from reporting requirements (e.g., sensitive but unclassified data)
5. Describes the role of the Executive Committee.
6. Clarifies FGDC capability to issue technical policy and guidance (implementation guidance), without a revision of the Circular.
7. Includes requirement that Federal agencies reference data to the National Spatial Reference System.
8. Includes requirement that the metadata provided to the GeoPlatform (per Evidence Act data requirements) shall be machine-readable, interpretable, and usable. – the Open Data Act uses “machine-readable” but broader discussions have included “interpretable and usable”.
9. Incorporates statutory roles of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee.

Comments Overview

- Received over 350 comments
- Some key comment themes included:
 - Scope and authority of Senior Agency Officials for Geospatial Information (SAOGI)
 - Clarification of FGDC members and their roles
 - Budget submission requirements
 - GeoPlatform and metadata
 - Definitions, including geospatial data vs. geo-enabled data
 - Clarify international roles

Updated A-16 Draft

Outline:

- Background
- Purpose
- Authority
- Applicability & Scope
 - Alignment with GDA and A-16
- Definitions
- Membership and Administration
 - FGDC Membership Responsibilities
 - FGDC Administration
 - FGDC Office of the Secretariat
- Data and Infrastructure
 - NSDI
 - NGDA and NGDA Themes
 - Geospatial Data Standards
 - GeoPlatform
- Partnerships & Coordination
 - FGDC Coordination Activities
 - NGAC
- Budget & Spending

Key Changes:

1. Clarified the Applicability & Scope Section
2. Added FGDC OS Section
3. Removed GDA Reporting Table

A-16 Timeline and Next Steps

A-16 FGDC/OMB Timeline				
Activity	Actions	Timeframe	Start Date	Due Date
Update draft circular A-16 based on OMB feedback	OMB provides feedback/edits to OS on last A-16 draft			10/12/2022
	OS sends OMB/A-16 timeline to ExCom			10/13/2022
	OS updated draft A-16 based on OMB feedback	9 days	10/12/2022	10/26/2022
NGAC / FGDC Review and Comment Process	OS sends draft to SC/NGAC for review and comments	2 weeks	10/27/2022	11/10/2022
	OS adjudicates SC/NGAC comments	2 weeks	11/14/2022	11/28/2022
OMB Internal Review	OS sends OMB adjudicated A-16 draft			11/28/2022
	OMB's initial target date for completed internal review			12/31/2022

FGDC OS working with OMB to determine next steps